

## **Minister's Speech.**

THE HON'BLE MR. K. V. REDDI, spoke as follows :—

To those who have no intimate connection with the workings of the Cabinet Government it is not possible to know what all His Excellency has been doing to make Madras a free province, free within the Empire, I mean the British Empire as well as the Indian Empire. When the future historian who gets access not merely to those mysterious things known as Secretariat Confidential files, but also to the private letters which His Excellency has been writing to the higher authorities, to write the history of the working of the Reforms, the nation and the country will know what a great debt of obligation and gratitude this country owes for what His Excellency has been doing for them. I know a bit of it but, Sir, the Cabinet regulations and etiquette do not permit me to disclose it. (Laughter). I hope however that I do not commit any breach of that etiquette if I tell this audience that His Excellency has not lost the slightest opportunity and has in fact been striving hard to find opportunities to do all that lies in his power to obtain freedom to the people of this country.

The warm and helping hand which has always been extended to the Ministry of Agriculture ever since its formation and for the matter of that to the entire Ministry, the love and affection and the whole-hearted sympathy ever bestowed whenever questions connected with the welfare of the Agriculturists of this country are concerned, are only proofs which would induce, impel and compel any one in this country just to symbolise the gratitude which the nation owes towards him, in a form like this. The matter does not stop there. Within the short space of a year and half, Sir, after the Reform Scheme had come into force a good number of officers of the Provincial Service, products of the old Agricultural College at Saidapet, has been raised to the Indian Agricultural Service (ch. ), a promotion which they could not

have dreamt of in earlier times. This they owe to the broad sympathy and statesmanship of His Excellency Lord Willingdon.

There is yet another reason, Sir, why we have chosen your Christian name to be given to these splendid buildings. The Indian ryot, the Indian peasant, is not a free man. He is a slave to many. He is a slave to custom. He is a slave to his own traditions. He is a slave to caste and above all he is a slave to the Indian Shylock, the sowcar, and it is left to this institution to free him from these bonds to make a free man of him and to lift him up mentally, socially, spiritually and above all, economically. What better name than His Excellency's Christian name can be chosen for this?

Your Excellency, I may also be permitted to assure you that you will have no occasion at any time to feel disappointed or to feel sorry for having lent your fair name to these great buildings, for I know that this institution will fill not merely a great want, but at the same time its work in the uplift of the agriculturists of this country will be enormous. I wanted to draw a comparison between this institution and some other institutions in the country, but my chief adviser, Mr. Sampson, wrote to me to say 'Don't do that.' Minister, as I am, I cannot but follow the advice of the head of the department in this matter. Sir, I must be permitted to say and I hope you will agree with me, that this institution with its laboratories, staff equipment and the central farm which you have seen this morning can hold its own against any institution and even claim the very first place in the whole of this country, amongst the institutions of its kind, (loud cheers) and also a very high place indeed in the institutions of other countries. Therefore, Sir, you will not in the least grudge us this little symbol of gratitude of the people of this country and will allow your fair, noble and significant name to be given to this College. (Loud cheers.)

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